Stagnation in Export Trade

3228. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether country's export trade has remained stagnant during the last one year and so far during the current year; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to boost exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir. As per DGCI&S data, India's exports during 1995-96 valued at US $ 31797 million were higher than exports valued at US $ 26330 million in 1994-95. As per latest provisional information available, exports during April-March 1996-97 are valued at US 33106 million.

(d) Export promotion is a continuous exercise. This includes simplification of policy and procedures for providing export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion, consultation with export organisations, trade and industry to tackle general as well as sector specific problems for initiation of appropriate remedial measures from time to time.

Share of Small Scale Industries in Export

3229. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the small scale industry's share in export as compared to the organised sector at present;

(b) the extent of its contribution to the employment generation and creation of wealth in the country; and

(c) the long term strategy formulated for the development and growth of the Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) Sir, Trade data compiled by DGCI &S does not indicate exports by Small Scale Sector separately. However, Office of Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries has indicated that out of total export of Rs. 106353 crores in 1995-96, the share of SSI sector was Rs. 36470.22 crores which is about 34.2%.

(b) As per information available with the Office of Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, there were 27.24 lakh SSI units in 1995-96 employing 152.61 lakh persons. No information is available regarding creation of wealth in the country by these units.

(c) The Office of the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries is the nodal agency for formulation of long term strategy for the development and growth of small scale industries. The strategy includes continuation of existing measures such as priority sector lending to SSI, fiscal concessions, reservation of items for exclusive manufacture and price and purchase preference to products manufactured by the sector as well as new measures such as provision of adequate credit and improving quality of its delivery, providing infrastructural support through Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme, enhanced technology support for modernisation and quality upgradation, enhancement of support to entrepreneurship development programmes as well as involving voluntary agencies, strengthening special employment generation programmes by way of self-employment through PMRY Schemes and enhancing information and data base of SSI Sector.

Anti-Dumping Duties against Imports of Acrylic Fibre

3230. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major firms producing acrylic fibre in India have approached Government seeking anti-dumping duties